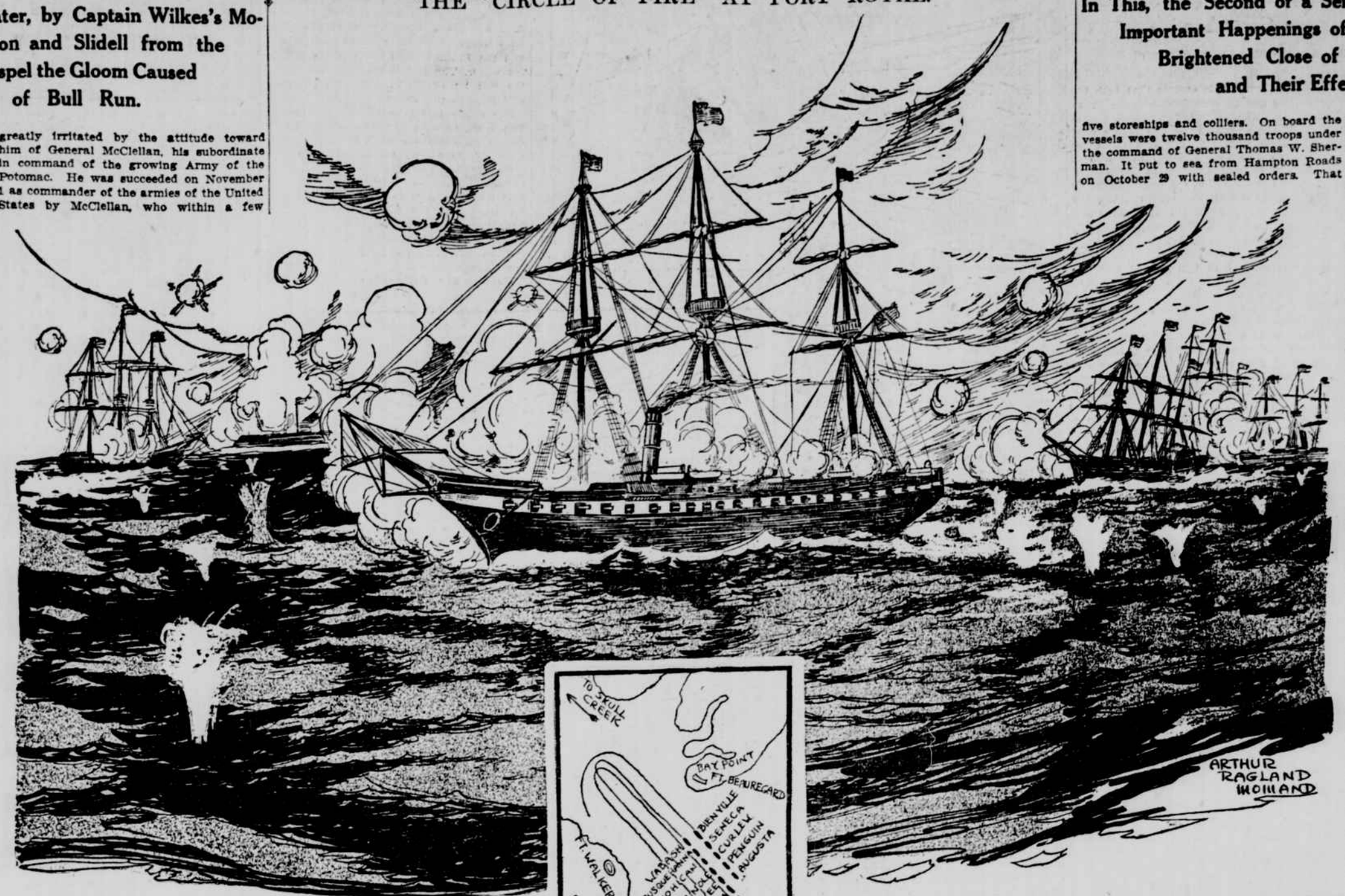
Port Royal's Capture, Fifty Years Ago, Sent Joy Rioting Through North

This Was Followed, a Day Later, by Captain Wilkes's Momentous Removal of Mason and Slidell from the Trent, Which Helped Dispel the Gloom Caused Here by Battle of Bull Run.

In This, the Second of a Series Which Will Recapitulate Important Happenings of Civil War, Two Which Brightened Close of 1861 Are Discussed and Their Effect Is Narrated.

THE "CIRCLE OF FIRE" AT PORT ROYAL.



The diagram shows how the fleet sailed back and forth in an ellipse, firing upon the forts as it passed. The smaller group of ships is the flanking squadron which stopped inside Fort Walker in order to hold back the Confederate vessels and enfilade the fortification.

THE month of November next will contain two anniversary dates of great interest, for it was on November 7, 1861, fifty years ago, that "The Great Expedition," as the contemporary issues of The Tribune styled it in its headlines and on its editorial page, captured Port Royal, S. C., and it was on the following day that Captain Wilkes, in command of the United States frigate San Jacinto, precipitated the country into a critical diplomatic dilemma and heightened the joy of the people by forcibly removing Messrs. Mason and Slidell, the Southern commissioners to European powers, from the British mail boat Trent in the Bahama Channel.

These events were the first of any moment following the disaster of Bull Run which carried with them any opportunity for popular rejoicing in the North and the people took full advantage of it. How that joy grew is indicated by the succession of editorial comments printed in The Tribune from day to day. On November 9, two days after the bombardment of Port Royal, the news of the success of the Union guns began to leak through in a tentative way, and The Tribune remarked, "If the capture of Beaufort has really been achieved it will be the most important event of the war to the present time." On November 12 it was quite definitely known that the North had won. The following day's editorial on "The Victory in the South," began in this wise:

"We have more glorious news from Beaufort and the Great Expedition. The evidence of our success comes from the rebels themselves, and it is so plainly evidence against interest, as the law has the phrase, that we may multiply by ten every encouraging item. So far from taking their favorable statements with a grain of salt, we may add as much seasoning as we choose." And in the fulness of joy, the editorial writers could not restrain themselves from beginning another editorial with these words: "It is not often that in one day such a variety of great news can be published as we put forth this morning."

With pæans rising from his heart, a writer now dipped into his ink with double joy to this effect:

"OUR VICTORY IN THE SOUTH.

"A great portion of our space is this morning (November 14, a week after the battle) given up to the topic which engages the attention of all, filling every heart with exaltation and lighting up every eye with the fire of a noble enthusiasm."

Then, on November 17, the news of the capture of Mason and Slidell was received and printed.

The first flush of feeling over, the editor settles back now with easy confidence that "The War for the Union" is looking up and writes, under the head of "Mason and Slidell":

"Whatever complications may arise from the arrest on board a British ship of the lord high commissioners of secession to the great powers of Western Europe, it is certain that the faces of loyal Americans broadened into a universal grin at the intelligence of their capture. It was the fit conclusion of a week of good news—the best that we have had since treason broke out into rebellion."

The news up to this time had not been very heartening. The lack of definite accomplishment on the part of Fremont and McClellan was beginning to irritate, and a needless loss of some fine men in Virginia near Leesburg stirred up popular feeling. On October 31, General Winfield Scott, energetic in spirit, although unable to walk any distance, much less ride a horse, owing to infirmities of age, resigned, being greatly irritated by the attitude toward him of General McClellan, his subordinate in command of the growing Army of the Potomac. He was succeeded on November 1 as commander of the armies of the United States by McClellan, who within a few months had risen to this great military height from the position of a civilian with a former rank in the regular army of captain.

General Scott's plan for closing the Civil War was that of surrounding the Southern States bounded by the Mississippi River, the Gulf of Mexico, the Atlantic Ocean and the loyal states, with a cordon of fighting forces. This enveloping chain of men and guns was to isolate, to swallow up, as it were, the hostile forces. The plan was, for this reason, styled the "Anaconda." This was the way the war was finally closed, as it proved. One of the earlier measures taken by President Lincoln, as a matter of fact, was the establishment of a blockade along the entire seaboard of the South. This was essential, for the South needed the European market for her cotton and an opportunity to bring in the necessary arms. Swift, shallow draft blockade runners were constructed to pass through the openings in the long, narrow barrier which shuts in the numerous bays and sounds forming an inland passage along the Atlantic coast suitable for the navigation of such a boat as Charles H. Hyde's Stop-a-While, which recently reached here from Florida by this "inside route."

The European nations smiled when they thought of the 3,000 miles of coast line, and inquired if the blockade was going to be "effective." Perhaps they knew that the vessels of the United States navy had been scattered far and wide by the Secretary of the Navy in the Buchanan administration, and, therefore, could not return to home waters for months. Secretary Welles, and his assistant, G. V. Fox, did not let this trouble them, but got together a collection of tugs, ferryboats, lightly built river or Sound steamers and other craft, and ordered new vessels. They realized that the breaking up of the Confederacy practically depended upon a successful blockade.

To maintain this condition it was essential to have a base of supplies near the centre of the South Atlantic seaboard, and a good harbor in which to find shelter in time of stress. To go North in search of repairs in the case of sailing vessels meant too long an absence from their stations. With the introduction of iron hulls and steam as a motive power, special machinery on land was often required. Port Royal Sound fulfilled all of the requirements. The inlet had plenty of water. It was only thirty miles from Charleston on the north and twenty miles from Savannah on the south. There was a haven big enough to "float all the navies of the world," as one officer put it. Moreover, Beaufort, the home of some of the leading people of South Carolina, fronted on Port Royal Sound, and its occupation would disturb their sense of security and might have an effect on the length of the war from that point of view. So in midsummer secret plans were made for the organization and dispatch of an expedition for the capture of the fortifications on either side of the inlet.

While this "great expedition" was in preparation a more modest one, consisting of five war steamers and two transports under Flag Officer Silas H. Stringham, sailed from Fortress Monroe, carrying about eight hundred troops under command of Major General Benjamin F. Butler, the man who about this time had discovered a way to make use of the negroes who were flocking to Fortress Monroe and Hampton from the plantations, by considering them property belonging to the enemy, and, therefore, "contraband," which he might hold and employ against the South. These vessels, in due course, appeared before Hatteras Inlet and proceeded to put into execution an evolution which had been devised for the purpose of protecting the wooden war vessels of those days from the fire of a fortification. This was a bombardment of the fortifications while in motion. The forts, it was thought, could not aim their guns fast enough to hit a moving target.

So it proved. The vessels moved back and forth, changing their distance each time and firing as they passed. The result was the capitulation of the forts after a comparatively short and easy bombardment, with moderate casualties, there being no loss of life on the vessels, while twelve or fifteen were killed or died from their wounds and thirty-five were wounded in the forts. Such an evolution would not work in these days, when fortifications are equipped with rapid-firing guns and instruments for obtaining the range which permit of making seven hits out of eight shots at a vessel more than three miles away moving at a speed of five miles an hour.

At last the "great expedition" was ready. It consisted of sixteen war vessels of different types, manned by ten thousand men under the command of Captain Samuel Francis Dupont, and a fleet of twenty-five storeships and colliers. On board the vessels were twelve thousand troops under the command of General Thomas W. Sherman. It put to sea from Hampton Roads on October 29 with sealed orders. That the orders were supposed to be unknown to the officers of the expedition did not prevent the Confederate government in some way getting information of its destination. This dispatch was received by Governor Pickens of South Carolina very shortly after the fleet cleared Cape Henry:

"Richmond, November 1, 1861.

"I have just received information which I consider entirely reliable that the enemy's expedition is intended for Port Royal.

"J. P. BENJAMIN,
"Acting Secretary of War."

The feelings of enthusiasm aroused by the departure of the fleet are revealed by the naive language of a correspondent of The Tribune, written out of the warm impulses of his heart: "That the fleet itself as it left Fortress Monroe was an object of such rare and singular beauty that few men may hope to see it twice in a lifetime, you can readily believe."

The fleet had a bad time of it on the way around Hatteras, for a storm arose which scattered the vessels. When it is realized that some of the craft carrying this expedition were New York ferryboats not larger than the old tubs that used to run to Staten Island it will be understood why they had a hard time getting past that treacherous point on the Atlantic Coast. Two vessels, the Governor and the Peerless, sank. The former had on board 650 marines, all of whom by good fortune were saved, with the exception of seven. No one on the latter was lost. An effort was made to deceive the South Carolinians by stopping off Charleston, as if intending to make an attack there.

The Wabash continued on her way to Port Royal, and one by one the scattered vessels appeared on the horizon, bringing with them in many cases stories of narrow escapes from destruction.

The entrance to Port Royal Sound, which was more than two miles wide, was protected by two earthworks, considered to be formidable. The one on the northeast, on Baypoint, was styled Fort Beauregard, while the other, on the southwest side, on Hilton Head, was called Fort Walker. The commander of these forts was General Thomas F. Drayton, a brother of Commander Percival Drayton, of the Pocahontas, a vessel in the fleet. Brother was fighting brother. There was also a mosquito fleet under the command of Commodore Josiah Tattnall, who had been an officer in the United States navy. He had three vessels.

Having located the channel, from which the Confederates had removed the buoys, Captain Dupont planned his battle. The manœuvre which had proved so successful at Hatteras was to be adopted. There were to be two lines of vessels, one of which was to fire its broadsides at Fort Beauregard as they entered on the north side of the roads. After passing two miles inside the forts, the firing line was to circle back on the south side and crack away at Fort Walker, while the second line took up its position in the harbor in order to keep the Confederate flotilla at bay.

Everything worked to a charm. The morning of November 7 was bright and clear. The broad surface of the sound was hardly broken by a ripple. At nine o'clock the lines of vessels started forward at a speed of six knots an hour. The men were at their guns ready to obey the order to gre . Fort Walker, on the south side of the roads, opened with heavy guns and the shells came hurtling across the water, but they fell short. The plan of Captain Dupont was executed with the precision of clockwork. At the psychological moment the sailors at the guns discharged their contents in a mighty broadside at Fort Beauregard. As the vessels proceeded without hesitation, the mosquito fleet of the Confederates fled precipitately up a creek. When they saw the fleet turn, according to the programme, the commander evidently gained the impression that the Union vessels were retreating, and came out again. As the Union line passed in front of Fort Walker it sent one broadside of metal after another into that work as fast as the guns could be reloaded. The shells fell into the fortification faster than the feet of a galloping horse strike the ground. The sand rose in clouds.

Once more the line turned and passed around, forming again that terrible circle of fire, changing their distance from the forts in order to destroy the range. The sand flew and guns, one after another, were thrown out of their places. The garrisons would not have been human if they had withstood it. In Fort Walker the Confederates were now working only two guns, but they were doing that magnificently. For a third time the evolution was repeated, and once more the fleet swung around. The flanking squadron had taken a position where it could enfilade Fort Walker and keep off the Confederate flotilla. As it was only six hundred yards distant, this crossfire "annoyed and dam-

Continued on seventh page.

Connecticut's Governor Favors Whipping for Some Criminals and Sterilization for Others

Mr. Baldwin Says Many Petty Offenders Would Be Improved by the First, and Grosser Ones Would Be Made Harmless by the Second.

Long Experience as a Judge Leads Him to Believe That a Good Flogging Early Would Prevent Many a Bad Lynching Later.

GOVERNOR SIMEON E. BALDWIN of Connecticut, has come out firmly in favor of whipping for many petty offenders, and for mutilation of confirmed prisoners for certain offences, as a new law now provides for in New Jersey. His long experience as judge of the Superior and Supreme courts and as Chief Justice of the state has made his field of observation extensive and his recommendations have the advantage of the combined study and observation of more than half a century. He advocated his views strenuously in delivering the address of welcome, on behalf of the State of Connecticut, at the recent state conference of charities and correction, but it is not known whether he will advocate their adoption into the state platform of the Democratic party or will advise legislation looking to those ends before the present session of the Legislature adjourns.

Governor Baldwin has been a delegate to three international conventions on penology and is an international authority on penological methods. When asked for a statement of his views on the subject in detail, he said:

"Relief that pauperizes; punishment which confirms criminality and disseminates it; these have not always been unknown in the administration of governments, even in the twentieth century.

"Humanity readily sinks into humanitarianism. Humanitarianism readily sinks into sentimentality.

"The great danger (I am tempted to say, all the danger) in our day, is in the direction of excess in lenity, in openhandedness, in sympathy.

"One effect is that the inmate of a public charitable institution to-day, in Connecticut, is better fed and housed than he ever was in his life before. The dietary is made up as well to tempt as to satisfy the appetite, and very often so as to overload the stomach and foment disease.

"Modern investigations as to processes of nutrition satisfy our best physiologists that we all eat too much. A good many well-to-do people believe they are right and act accordingly, but I see little consideration given to their advice in the kitchens of our charitable or of our penal institutions.

"Another point to which I would call public attention is the right way of dealing with children who are caught in crime. I saw the other day that a boy in New York who threw a stone at a lady riding in an automobile and hit her was let off with an apology. The apology was very well, but that alone would not be much of a deterrent to other boys who think it good fun to stone automobiles. The Scotch can give us lessons in that matter. In Scotland if a boy commits a criminal act, he is not let off with an apology, or a suspended sentence. An appropriate penalty is provided. It is a sound whipping, administered by order of court. That is a deterrent to other boys, and to him when temptation comes to him the next time.

"I believe a whipping, hard enough to be a thoroughly unpleasant experience, but not hard enough to break the skin, is a far more appropriate penalty to impose than sending a boy to the reform school. It would leave plenty of room for the probation officer. He could supplement the whipping, but his work, I believe, should not displace it altogether.

"Putting the wrongdoer in confinement, to be supported at public expense, after applying the fruits, so far as they may go, of his labor in jail, is a very costly kind of punishment for the state. It was much cheaper to dispose of him as they did a hundred years ago. They generally fined or flogged him and let him go, unless it was a state's prison offence. Very few were sentenced to confinement in jail. In 1830 we abolished the whipping post. Before that our courts had sent only about fifty to jail each year. The next year, 1831, there were ninety-two commitments, and five years later they had risen to 270.

"Virginia a few years ago (1898) reverted to the old-fashioned plan by statute, authorizing whipping to be substituted for fine and imprisonment, at discretion of the court, as the sentence upon conviction for crime of any boy under sixteen years of age, provided the consent of his parent or guardian be first given.

"It has been with Americans a national habit for sixty years to punish all ordinary crimes by imprisonment and imprisonment only. It has come to seem to us the natural way of treating convicts. Is it, indeed, thus? Or may this national belief be a bit of provincialism, due to an inadequate consideration of the lessons to be learned in other lands or from other times?

"In all other previous centuries the criminal played a temporary and insignificant part in the administration of criminal justice. In nine cases out of ten, in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred, the man convicted of any of the common crimes was dismissed, after paying a fine or being subjected to some form of bodily suffering or social degradation. The substitution of imprisonment for all other forms of corporal punishment has involved the modern state in two great evils. It has added enormously to its annual outgoes and it has taken thousands of people from their natural surroundings and opportunities for profitable industry and shut them up in an artificial and unnatural environment, where they are almost always in a moral atmosphere that is foul and contaminating.

"One of the persons most closely connected with the State Reform School of Connecticut stated a year or two ago that of the boys kept in the principal building of the institution not one, as far as they could discover, led an honest life after his release. A better showing is made by the statistics put forward by the Elmira Reformatory, but I do not hesitate to avow my conviction that whipping would often furnish a mode of punishment far more appropriate than fine or imprisonment for young offenders and for some minor offences by full grown men. It might also be as useful a substitute for or addition to imprisonment for certain graver crimes.

"While holding criminal terms of the Superior Court I have more than once had occasion to sentence culprits to confinement in jail whose cases would have been, in my opinion, better fitted to some form of punishment shorter in duration and sharper in pain. Most judges, I am sure, must sometimes have had similar feelings on the bench, particularly in the cases of boys whose parents had apparently spared the rod and spoiled the child.

"To measure out punishment in all cases of serious crimes by so many months or years in jail is to use a rough yardstick. To replace whipping upon the list of permissible punishments would not, of course, involve the restoration of the whipping post; nor is it a penalty appropriate to every case. Let it be inflicted in private and, when upon grown men, for such offences only as involve great personal violence or indignity to another; unless, as in India, it be added to the sentence of habitual criminals. Nor should the cat o' nine tails or any similar instrument be used. The birch or the leather strap will be sufficient for the purpose.

"There is a certain crime of which one seldom speaks. Its very name has come to be banished from our newspapers. Yet its thought is a daily terror to every woman in the South and brings a sense of uneasiness and constraint into the life of her Northern sisters. It is the cause of most of those lynching cases that disgrace civilization. It is kept down by only the severest methods. Is it too much to say that if the courts are not ready to apply these the people will?

"In the early days of the New Haven colony the laws provided, with meaning obscurity, that it should be 'severely and grievously punished' by the magistrates. It is probable that the planters had in mind that this grievous punishment might sometimes be castration. Can there be one more precisely answerable to the wrong? There are weighty reasons for it. As fully as the death of the criminal it insures the community against a repetition of the offence. It reforms his body if it does not his soul. A convict is now in the state prison of Connecticut upon a second conviction for this crime. His first term of imprisonment had no deterrent effect upon him.

"Such a punishment is also appropriate because it puts on the criminal a shame of the same nature that he has put upon another. It dishonors and degrades, as he has dishonored and degraded. It would be dreaded by most men little less than capital punishment; but less it would be for there are few who do not cling to life under the most adverse circumstances. It involves an act which might be criticised as cruel, and its effect is to lower a human life beyond recovery.

"Governor Buckingham of Connecticut once stated that no white man had ever been whipped twice, under a judicial sentence, in that state. There have been many who have gone back to jail ten and twenty times. I believe that President Woolsey of Yale was right when he once said that the only theory of criminal punishment which rested on solid ground was that to punish was to give the offender his deserts and that the government had the right to use its power to that end.

"A whipping has a very direct tendency to teach a man to refrain from whatever is likely to entail another punishment of the same sort. It may be the salvation of a boy, who would otherwise be sent to a reform school that does not reform, or to a jail that he would find a school of crime."

SIMEON E. BALDWIN, GOVERNOR OF CONNECTICUT.

Dread of Camorra

Continued from first page.

other, precisely in the way of a great co-operative community. "You help me and I help you" is the not ungrateful theory on which they work. Little street boys who run their errands, or who, knowing one of them and seeing him in danger, warns him, get all kinds of opportunity of earning good and sometimes honest livings by the Camorristi in grateful recognition of such service.

A peculiar phase of Camorra activity, and one that, strangely enough, we never seem to hear of on this side of the water, is its "censorship" of the opera. Whenever a new singer goes to Naples to make a debut at the San Carlos opera, he or she is approached by an appointed agent of the Camorra, and it is suggested to the aspirant for operatic honors that it lies in the power of the society to insure failure or greatly to aid success. If the demands of the Camorra are met and the money is paid over to them in advance, they form a regular claque at the opening night and do their mightiest to give the artist an ovation. If the singer is either too poor or too proud to "come up," the first night she appears will be a night of horrors that she will never forget. A run of more than a week in the San Carlos opera without the co-operation of the Camorra is practically impossible.

The demands of this strange band of desperadoes are seldom exorbitant or even high, and its members are usually punctilious to a degree in the carrying out of their part of the bargain; for Camorristi have a code of honor, and, such as it is, one must respect it or take the consequences. Many of them are apparently devout and sincere in the following of their religious faith, and although they will in bonnie spirits rifle a house, sell the plunder at public auction and cheat over the delivery of the goods to those who have unsuspectingly bought them, many of them would think it a sin to miss going to church on Sunday or to fail to say their prayers night and morning. It is a strange phase of the fickle Neapolitan's disposition that he seems to have no sense of consistency in action. And it is interesting to notice that the central and northern Italians are as much puzzled over the doings of their strange brothers in the south as we in America are.

FACT AND FANCY.

Little girls believe in the man in the moon, but older girls believe in the man in the honeymoon.

Honesty is the best policy, but many people find it too difficult to keep up the premiums.